Free textbooks to students

17. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving textbooks free of cost to 1.05 crore students who are studying in Government and aided schools in the State;

(b) if so, the Getails thereof;

(c) whether any such scheme is going on at the Centre for giving textbooks free of cost to poor and students studying in Government and aided schools; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not adopting the same and supplying free textbooks to all students who are studying in Government and aided schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) 24.26 lakhs Scheduled caste children, 10.92 lakh Scheduled Tribe children, 48.15 lakh Backward Class children, 0.82 lakh Physically Handicapped children and 20.85 lakh Open Competition children were covered.

(c) and (d) Government of India, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides free text books to all girls, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper level within upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child in cases where there is no State level scheme for free text books.

Effectiveness of school education system

18. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a Committee has been set up to explore the possibility of asessing the achievement of students as an indicator of the effectiveness and suitability of the school education system in the country;

(b) if so, the v-etails thereof, including the personnel of the Committee, the precise terms of reference and the time-frame within the Committee would submit its recommendations;